

said edge surfaces being located in respective generally parallel transverse planes which are essentially perpendicular relative to said axis; and

a plurality of mixer components located in said flow path, said components having a first end which is closer to the transverse plane of said first edge than to the transverse plane of the second edge and a second end which is closer to the transverse plane of said second edge than to the transverse plane of the first edge,

said mixer components being arranged in at least two separate intersecting oblique planes, each of which intersecting oblique planes is disposed at an angle relative to said axis, there being a plurality of said components in each said plane, which components of each plane are spaced apart to provide openings for fluid flow,

said saddle elements being arranged with the second edge surfaces thereof disposed in mated, contacting relationship.

42 13. (TWICE AMENDED) A static mixer structure comprising first, second, third and fourth saddle elements, each said saddle element comprising:

C1 a generally ring-shaped support structure having a central axis, concentric inner and outer, radially spaced, circumferentially extending surfaces, and first and second axially spaced, generally parallel edge surfaces, said inner surface defining a fluid flow path which extends along said axis,

said edge surfaces being located in respective generally parallel transverse planes which are essentially perpendicular relative to said axis; and

a plurality of mixer components located in said flow path, said components having a first end which is closer to the transverse plane of said first edge than to the transverse plane of the second edge and a second end which is closer to the transverse plane of said second edge than to the transverse plane of the first edge,

said mixer components being arranged in at least two separate intersecting oblique planes, each of which intersecting oblique planes is disposed at an angle relative to said axis, there being a plurality of said components in each said plane, which components of each plane are spaced apart to provide openings for fluid flow,

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end
said saddle elements being arranged with the second edge surfaces of said first and second elements disposed in mated, contacting relationship, with the second edge surfaces of said third and fourth elements disposed in mated, contacting relationship, and with the first edge surfaces of said second and third elements disposed in mated, contacting relationship.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 remain in this application.

In the outstanding official action, claims 1 through 11 and 14 through 22 were allowed. However, claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 12 and 13 and submits that in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks it can be seen that claim 12 and 13 are each free of the cited prior art and in proper form for allowance.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of King '440. However, claims 12 and 13 have been amended above to incorporate the same language as that which resulted in the allowance of claim 1. That is to say, claims 12 and 13 are directed to a stack containing a plurality of elements, each of which is identical to the element of allowed claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12 and 13 should now be allowable.

It is submitted that the foregoing amendments are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in that the same simply require only cursory review by the examiner to see that claims 12 and 13 should be allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 was allowed as a result of the amendment of August 28, 2001.